given its clearance to release the animals to Andhra Pradesh Government; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in giving permission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Since, the Australian authorities failed to satisfy the Quarantine and Health requirements specified by the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, the animals could not be released from the Quarantine Station, Chennai.

Starvation in Orissa

†1779. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that whole of the Orissa is passing through a phase of frightening starvation and the benefit of none of the schemes, run by Government, has reached the people; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) As on 24th July, 2002, out of 28 districts of the State, 1 had scanty and 20 had deficient rainfall in Orissa. While the situation gives cause for serious concern and careful contingent planning, there is no report suggesting a phase of acute distress. Similarly, while there may be room for improvement in implementation of development schemes in the State, it will neither be correct nor fair to consider that these have failed to result in benefits to the State.

Increasing the poultry production

1780. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan to double poultry production in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.